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LETTER DATED 16 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 12-14 November 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

I request your intervention with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These acts continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused 12-14 November 1997

1. In the northern region 104 sorties were flown, at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Zakho, Dohuk, Irbil, Mosul, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Rawandoz, Baibo and Ayn Zalah.

2. In the southern region 269 sorties were flown, at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basra, Chabaish, Artawi, Rumaythah, Shatrah and Jalibah.

3. Three United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.

4. At 1020 hours, 1500 hours and 1511 hours on 4 November 1997, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the Umm Qasr area.

5. At 0845 hours on 6 November 1997, a United States aircraft overflew Mina' al-Bakr.

6. At 0945 hours on 8 November 1997, a helicopter from United States frigate 51 overflew Mina' al-Bakr.

7. At 0900 hours on 9 November 1997, a helicopter from United States frigate 51 overflew Mina' al-Bakr.

8. At 1012 hours and 1013 hours on 9 November 1997, United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the Umm Qasr area.